

VZCZCXRO1204
PP RUEHCI
DE RUEHKA #0588/01 1010945
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 110945Z APR 07
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3769
INFO RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 1594
RUEHKT/AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU 9029
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 7871
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 9812
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1676
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1116
RUEHCI/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 DHAKA 000588

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/08/2016
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [EAID](#) [CASC](#) [PHUM](#) [BG](#)
SUBJECT: HOME SECRETARY ON JMB EXECUTIONS, KIBRIA AND OTHER
ISSUES

REF: A. DHAKA 0546
[1](#)B. DHAKA 0529
[1](#)C. DHAKA 0467
[1](#)D. DHAKA 0390
[1](#)E. HQ ICE DRO 291717Z MAR 07

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Geeta Pasi; Reason 1.4(d)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary. On April 5, Deputy Chief of Mission and Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) Secretary Abdul Karim met to discuss issues, including the recent Jamaatul Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB) executions, GOB changes to its visa regime, trafficking in persons, the restarting of the Kibria investigation, and the sedition trial of Shoaib Choudhury. Also present were MHA Joint Secretary Mojibur Rahman and poloff (notetaker). End summary.

JMB TERRORISTS EXECUTED

[1](#)2. (C) The Home Secretary explained the secrecy around the executions of JMB. Karim said he gave the order to execute the sentenced JMB militants on March 7 and that the March 29 executions met the minimum 21 days notice required following the denial of the appeal (ref A). Karim noted that he led the public and even the police to believe that the date of execution would be 21 to 28 days after March 12, the date he publicly said the militants were informed. To further confuse people, he relocated the death row inmates to other prisons several times.

[1](#)3. (C) "The executions took place at 11:45 PM on March 29," Karim said, "and by 5:30 AM the next morning all of the bodies had been delivered to their families for burial after morning prayers." He added that the family of Siddiqui Islam, alias Bangla Bhai (the most notorious of the terrorists), did not permit his body to be buried until after afternoon prayers (at midday) attracting a large crowd of onlookers in Bangla Bhai's village. On the day of the execution, Karim said Bangla Bhai's last remarks made reference to the fact that it was "too early" for him to die as "he had more to do to support Islam." Karim downplayed the likelihood of JMB reprisals. "If there was popular support for JMB, we would have seen demonstrations following their executions."

KIBRIA INVESTIGATION TO BE RESTARTED

[1](#)4. (C) Media reported the GOB planned to restart the investigation of the murder of Awami League leader Shah A.M.S

Kibria. Karim confirmed the restarted investigation and said he instructed the lead GOB agency, the police, to contact the Embassy if the MHA required any assistance adding that "we want it to be done in a professional way." Karim also said that the GOB might contact the Embassy on other cases such as the August 2004 Awami League bombing.

VISAS AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

15. (C) Karim said the GOB has eased registration requirements for Americans, explaining that those staying for 90 days or more need to register at the airport, but those who stay less than that do not have to register at all. He added that those working for NGOs are also not required to register, noting they need appropriate visas before their arrival. "This is the most liberal visa policy possible," he said (ref B).

16. (C) We noted that the USG is very interested in child trafficking, and requested enhanced efforts to prosecute traffickers of child laborers and migrant workers. Karim provided the draft GOB 2007 report on trafficking and promised to "track and prosecute traffickers of migrant workers."

ARRESTS NUMBERS

17. (C) In March, the reputable human rights groups Odikhar released a report culled from news reporting that during the first 60 days of the State of Emergency security forces

DHAKA 00000588 002 OF 002

arrested 95,000 people (ref C). The DCM asked Karim about Odikhar numbers. He did not challenge Odikhar's report but attributed any increase to police executing outstanding arrest warrants.

DEPORTATION OF MOHIUDDIN AHMED

18. (C) In early April, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced plans to deport Mohiuddin Ahmed, who was sentenced to death in absentia for the 1975 killing of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to Bangladesh. The deportation was postponed after a U.S. court granted a stay of removal (ref E). Aware of the temporary stay he said, "We are ready to arrest him as soon as he arrives."

SHOAIB CHOUDHURY SEDITION TRIAL

19. (C) Commenting upon the Shoaib Choudhury sedition trial (ref B), the DCM noted US interest, including Congressional interest, in this issue and gave the Home Secretary a copy of sense of the House Resolution 64 supporting Shoaib Choudhury. BUTENIS